

Saved by a Fly

A Native American Story

retold by
Feana Tu'akoi

One day, a giant moose came to drink at a river. He was very big and very thirsty. All day long, he drank and he drank.

The other animals watched as the river started to empty. They were very worried.

"What shall we do?" moaned Beaver. "If Moose drinks all the water, our homes will be ruined."

"It's OK for you," burred Salmon. "You can live on land if you have to. Without the river, I'll die."

"He's got to be stopped," roared Buffalo. "Someone should scare him away."

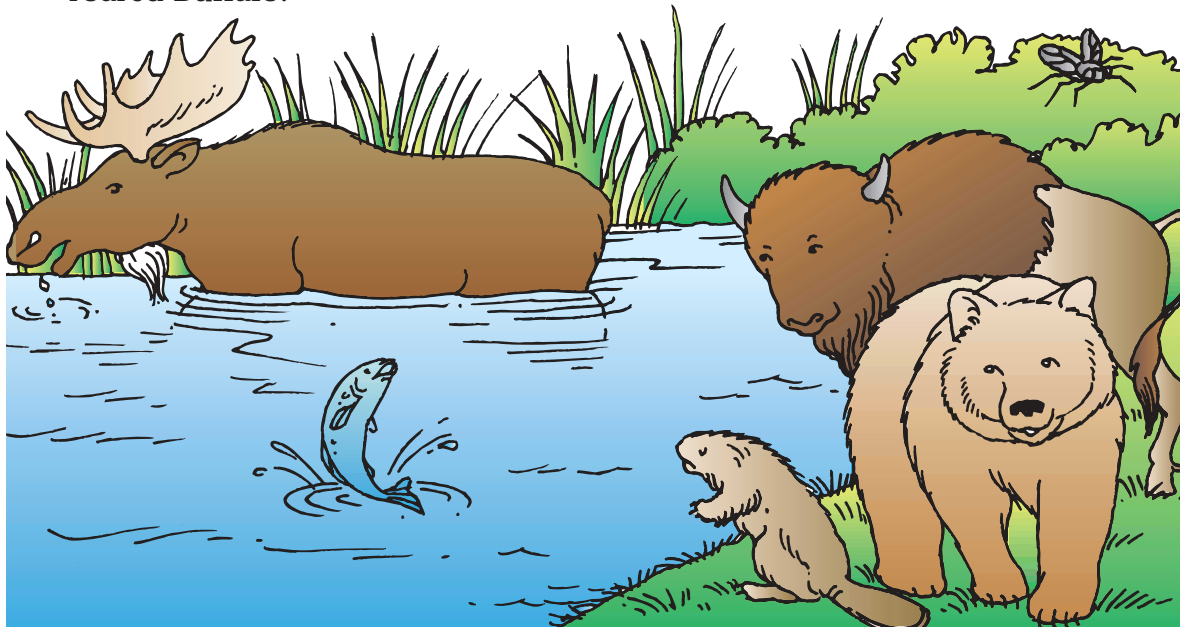
"Well, don't look at me!" growled Bear. "That moose is twice my size. One flick of his antlers, and I'd be off to the moon."

The others nodded sadly. Bear was right. They were all too scared to try to make Moose leave.

"Let me try," buzzed Fly.

The animals looked at Fly in surprise. Then they started to laugh.

"Ha, ha. How could *you* stop Moose? Look at the size of you!" roared Buffalo.



“Just watch me try,” buzzed Fly.

Fly flew onto Moose’s shoulder and bit him sharply. Moose flicked his enormous head, but he kept on drinking.

Fly landed on Moose’s back leg, biting hard. Moose stamped until the ground shook, but he kept on drinking.

Fly moved to Moose’s front leg and bit again. Moose was getting mad now. He splashed his leg into the river to get rid of Fly, but he kept on drinking.

Poor Fly nearly drowned, but he was determined not to give up. He flew hard to dry out his wings. Then he stopped to get his breath back.

The other animals were worried. “Come back, Fly,” they called. “We’re sorry we made fun of you! Stop before you get hurt!”

But Fly didn’t listen. He made one last, angry attack. He zoomed around and around Moose’s head, biting and buzzing madly. Moose shook his head, stamped his feet, and splashed in the water. But Fly kept on buzzing and biting.

Moose snorted and blew. He lifted his head and gave a mighty roar. But Fly kept on buzzing and biting.

Fly was driving Moose crazy. Moose ran up and down the riverbank. He stomped and roared, making the ground shake as if there were an earthquake. He rubbed himself against the trees, then rolled in the water. But Fly kept on buzzing and biting.

At last, realizing that he was beaten, Moose left the river for good.

The animals were overjoyed.

“You’ve saved my life!” burred Salmon.

Fly smiled and buzzed tiredly. “Well, that just proves you can do anything if you try hard enough!”

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What is the main idea of the story?

- Ⓐ A moose drinks all the water from a river
- Ⓑ A group of animals is afraid of a big moose
- Ⓒ A fly gets rid of a troublesome moose
- Ⓓ A group of animals is always quarreling

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Write a summary of this story. Use the sentence below to begin your summary. Write your answer on your answer document.

One day, some animals watched a big moose drink water from the river.

Mischief in the White House

by
Jeanie Ransom

Abe Lincoln's son gave a troubled nation something to smile about.

Would your parents let you drive a cart pulled by goats through the middle of the living room? Or squirt visitors with a fire hose? You'd probably be grounded for decades.

But not Tad Lincoln, the youngest son of America's 16th president. Tad, who was 8 when the Lincolns moved into the White House in 1861, built forts on the White House roof, held plays and puppet shows in the attic and ran a lemonade stand in the White House lobby.

Animals Everywhere

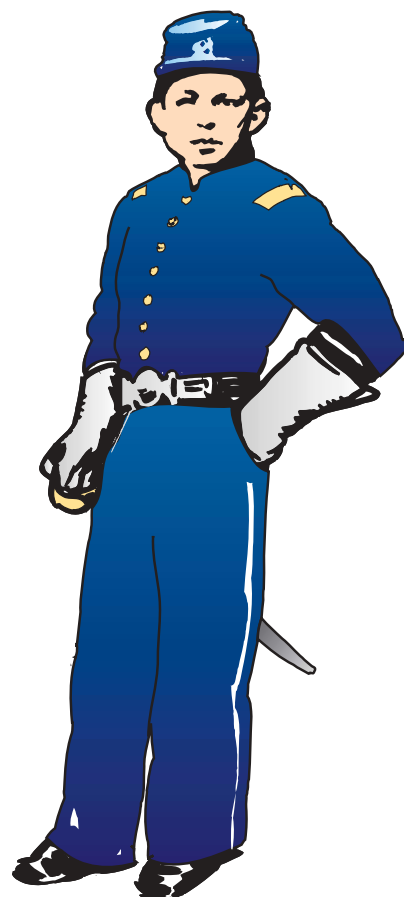
Since his dad, Abraham Lincoln, was the first president with young children living in the White House, people sent lots of gifts—ponies, dogs, rabbits, even a pair of goats. Tad became particularly attached to a turkey that was meant to be the Lincolns' holiday dinner.

Tad named the turkey "Jack" and trained the bird to follow him all over the White House grounds. But when the day came to turn Jack into the main meal, Tad pleaded for his pet's life and his father relented. Jack got a stay of execution from the president.

Keeping Spirits Up

Tad's antics were more than fun and games. They served a useful purpose. The country was in the midst of the Civil War, and stories about Tad helped keep up people's spirits during dark times.

They also helped cheer the president and Mrs. Lincoln, who had lost one son before Tad was born and another boy just a year after the family moved into the White House.



Tad Lincoln in a soldier's uniform that the Secretary of War allowed him to wear.

Once, Tad drove his pet goat, Nanko, right through an important party his parents were having. Women dressed in hoop skirts screamed as Tad raced his goat in one door, circled the room, then drove him back out.

Another time, Tad jokingly waved a Confederate flag out the window while his father drilled Union soldiers on the lawn below. Then there was the day the youngster gave some important visitors an unexpected bath with a fire hose.

With so much energy, Tad was very much like the wiggly tadpole his father had nicknamed him after.

Inseparable Friends

Tad's playful nature was a help to the president, who could relax and forget his troubles when he was with his son. They loved to have wrestling matches on the expensive Oriental carpets that were Mrs. Lincoln's pride and joy. Tad and his dad also enjoyed riding horses around the White House grounds.

Tad was often at his dad's side, whether it was to meetings or to visit troops in their camps.

Tad died in 1871 from tuberculosis when he was 18, six years after his father was assassinated.

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